Storage of foodgrains in plastic bags

438. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to direct IGMRI, Hapur to conduct a six year study to find out the suitability of plastic bags for storage of wheat and rice, since wheat and rice are stored beyond six years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the duration of the current study being conducted by IGMRI to study suitability of plastic bags for storage of cereals; and

(d) the details of the study conducted by IGMRI, Hapur under various climatic and weather conditions and various combinations of these conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Government has advised Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (IGMRI), Hapur to conduct a study to find out the suitability of the PP/HDPE bags for the storage of wheat and rice for a period of three years becasue the normal shelf life of these foodgrains is around three years. The study is proposed to be conducted in FCI godowns situated in different agro-climatic zones of the country. All the physical and chemical aspects pertaining to quality of foodgrains including toxic effects, if any, of plastic bags to the foodgrains would be studied by the IGMRI.

(d) A short term study for a duration of about one year had been conducted by IGMRI to find out the suitability fo PP/HDPE bags for the storage of wheat and rice. The study has found that PP/HDPE bags are suitable for the storage of wheat and rice.